



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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November 2, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

Maria M. Oms
FOR

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HA'RE JOHN'S
PARADISE – HA'RE JOHN'S GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ha'RE John's Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ha'RE John's Paradise, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation.

Ha'RE John's Group Home is a ten-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring review, Ha'RE John's Group Home was providing services for eight DCFS children.

Ha'RE John's Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. Specifically, Ha'RE John's Group Home needs to clean bathroom two, replace the worn and dirty kitchen pots and pans and remove the writing from the television in bedroom seven. The Group Home also needs to assess children for needed services within the first thirty days of placement, include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) and ensure that the NSPs are comprehensive and include short and long term goals. In addition, the Group Home needs to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management and DCFS. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Group Home management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank DCFS and Agency management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:bg

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Al Okeke, Board Chair, Ha'RE John's Group Home
Dr. Boniface Ofoegbu, Executive Director, Ha'RE John's Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Ha'RE John's Paradise
Ha'RE John's Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90043
License Number: 191871747
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ha'RE John's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean, there is adequate furniture and lighting, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the bathtub and toilet seat are dirty in bathroom two and the kitchen pots and pans are worn and dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean, orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and the children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, there is writing and scratch marks on the television in bedroom seven.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ha'RE John's Paradise management:

- a. Clean the bathtub and toilet seat in bathroom two.**
- b. Replace all worn and dirty pots and pans in the kitchen.**
- c. Remove all writing and scratch marks from the television in bedroom seven.**

II. Program Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Three****Comments:**

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services. However, children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive, do not include short and long term goals and all members of the treatment team are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

Recommendations**2. Ha'RE John's Paradise management:**

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.
- b. Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- c. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include both short and long term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Three****Comments:**

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented. Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors and attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home also provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Ha'RE John's Paradise management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE (Group Home)

THIS CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN IS IN REPOSE TO THE
RECOMMENDATION WHICH WERE MADE BY THE COUNTY OF LOS
ANGELES AND DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR CONTROLLER, CHILDREN'S
GROUP HOME OMBUDSMAN DIVISION.

I. FACILITY ENVIRONMENT: Method of facility assessment was by
observation, after which, it was recommended that.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Ha'RE John's Management Should
- a) Clean the bathtub and toilet seat in bathroom two.
 - b) Replace all worn out and dirty pots and pans in the kitchen
 - c) Remove all writing, scratches and marks from the television in bedroom #7.

PLAN: Ha'RE John's Management will scrub the bathtub and toilet in bathroom #2
and ensure that all bathrooms and toilet seats are kept clean at all times.

Replace all worn out and dirty pots and pans in the kitchen and ensure that the
kitchen is kept clean at all times.

Ha'RE John's Management will remove all writings and scratches and marks
from the television in bedroom #7 and in all other rooms.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- (a) Bath tub in bathroom number two has been professionally scrubbed and
cleaned. Toilet seat in bathroom number two has been replaced with a new
seat. Staff have been instructed and will continue to be reminded in our
monthly meeting the importance of keeping the bathrooms clean at all times.

-Residents have been instructed and will continue to be reminded in their
monthly meeting about keeping the bathrooms and
bathtubs clean and rinsing them after using them.

-Bathroom will be inspected everyday to ensure daily cleanliness.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON:

Facility manager will inspect the bathrooms daily and report to the administrator. The director will ensure the replacement of worn out parts of the bathrooms.

- (b) All worn and dirty pots and pans in the kitchen have been replaced. Staffs have been instructed to report worn out utensils as soon as they are observed

Writing and scratch marks on the television in bedroom #7 have been removed. It will be reinforced to the resident's in their monthly meeting that writings and tagging on walls and furniture are against the Group Home's policies and should be avoided.

- (c) Daily rounds and inspection of all rooms for scratches twenty-four hours

RESPONSIBLE PERSON:

All staff, supervised by the facility manager and monitored by the administrator

2. PROGRAM SERVICES:

Children meet Group Home population criteria as outlined in the program statement. however children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current however, all members of the treatment are not included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plan. the NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include long and short term goals.

PLAN

All placed children in the Group Home will be assessed for needs and services within thirty days of placement by the staff in-house social worker and the mental services.

Members of the treatment team will contribute in the development and implementation of the needs and plan which is expected to be comprehensive and include long and short term goals

HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE

(Group Home)

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The day following a resident's placement, both the administrative and Management staff of the Group Home will meet and discuss the child's issues and a possible care plan

-Placed child will be seen and assessed by the in-house social worker within one week of placement.

-Placed child will be seen and assessed by the mental health worker/psychologist within 2 weeks of placement.

Group Home will schedule a meeting of the treatment team, which will be led by the Group Home's in-house social worker and include the County CSW, Group Home representatives, and mental health worker/psychologist. Any member of the team who is unable to attend the Needs and Services meeting could call or fax in his or her input. The placed child should also be included in making his Needs and Services plan. The final draft of the needs and services plan should be comprehensive. The Needs and Services Plan should address measurable short and long-term goals and the time frame for achieving the desired goals.

3. PHOTO ALBUM/LIFE BOOKS

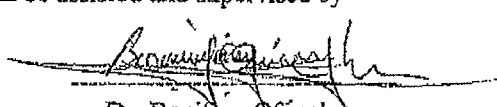
The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

PLANS

Ha'RE John's Administration shall encourage and assist each placed child in creating and updating a life book/photo album and items that relate to childhood memories.

IMPLEMENTATION

Photo albums have been provided for all the child in placement. Each placed child will have an initial photograph of his taken during intake. The Group Home must ensure that each child recovers his school photographs whenever they are taken. An instant camera has been provided by the Group Home to take photographs of placed children during their special events or outings. Children are encouraged to take their own photographs, develop their writing, crafts and artistic skills which will be preserved for them by the Group Home and released to them when they will finally leave the Group Home. Ms. Yolanda Lewis has been charged with the responsibility of assisting the children in maintaining their photo albums and life books. She will be assisted and supervised by Ms. Walker, the facility manager.


Dr. Boniface Ofœgbu

12/15/08

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